



## Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Harvard Sociologist William Julius Wilson to Discuss “More Than Just Race”**

Past debate by social scientists has centered on whether racial inequities are driven by social structure or culture; yet Harvard Sociologist William Julius Wilson takes a different view – that both structural and cultural factors are irrevocably linked. Wilson, the Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor of Sociology at Harvard, will make two public presentations at The Ohio State University on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

“Structure and Culture – Framing the Dialogue for Combating Racial Inequality in the U.S.,” will be the topic of a lecture and roundtable discussion held at 3:00 p.m. at the Wexner Center Auditorium, 1871 North High Street. A discussion moderated by Fred Andrie, recently retired host of WOSU Radio’s *Open Line*, will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Moritz College of Law Saxbe Auditorium, 55 West 12th Avenue. A book signing will follow the afternoon session.

Wilson presents a framework—based on his latest book, *More than Just Race*—for understanding the formation and maintenance of racial inequality and racial group outcomes. That framework integrates cultural factors with two types of structural forces—those that directly reflect explicit racial bias and those that do not. By bringing this focus to light, he hopes to spark greater interest and dialogue in the research and policy arenas around a more holistic approach to poverty alleviation.

Wilson was selected by *Time* magazine in 1996 as one of America’s 25 Most Influential People, and is the author of seven books, including *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor* (Vintage, 1997), and his latest work, *More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City*, (W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2009.)

Wilson’s presentations are co-sponsored by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, the Office of Minority Affairs, and the Department of Sociology at The Ohio State University. Both presentations are free and open to the public. For more information go to: <http://kirwaninstitute.org/>.

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